GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5944
ANSWERED ON:03.05.2010
DEFENCE AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH LABORATORY
Saroj Shri Tufani

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Defence Agricultural Research Laboratory under the Ministry;

(b) the main achievements of the said laboratory;

(c) whether the structure of the laboratory has been changed recently; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a) Defence Agricultural Research Laboratory (now, Defence Institute of Bio-Energy Research) is actively engaged in increasing fresh food productivity and bio-diesel production technologies in eco-friendly and sustainable manner through integrated approach, in order to provide logistic support to Armed Forces deployed in far flung inhospitable Himalayan regions.

(b) The laboratory has developed high-altitude agro-animal technologies; green house technology for off-season vegetable cultivation in high-altitude regions of Central Himalayas; high yielding, cold tolerant vegetable varieties/hybrids in tomato, capsicum, garlic, cabbage, bitter-gourd, bottle-gourd and cucumber, suitable for mid and high altitude areas; micropropogation protocol for Jatropha multiplication; transgenic tomato plants introgressing osmotin gene through agrobacterium mediated genetic transformation for inbuilt tolerance against abiotic stresses; poly-herbal products for leucoderma, eczema, and toothache and sun burn cream; and micropropogation technology under laboratory condition for codyceps sinenesis mycelium. The laboratory has established herbal garden at Pithoragarh, Auli and Raiwala in Uttarakhand having more than 140 species; and a Germplasm Center of German Angora rabbits. The laboratory is also engaged in providing training to Armed Forces personnel for their resettlement.

(c) & (d): The name of the Laboratory has been changed from Defence Agricultural Research Laboratory (DARL) to Defence Institute of Bio-Energy Research (DIBER) to take into account the mandate of the laboratory to carry out research on R&D on Bio-resources & Bio-energy for Defence use.